



# Mini-Grant Application

*“YOUth Can!”*

**Due March 12, 2010**

Presented by



Coordinated by the Nebraska InterCorps Council  
*a collaboration of AmeriCorps members in service in Nebraska*





## 2010 Global Youth Service Day Mini Grant Application

### 1. Contact Information

**Contact Name:** Andrea Haugen

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**Organization** (legal applicant name): Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance

**Address:** 5006 Underwood Avenue, Omaha Nebraska 68132

**Youth Contact Person:** Kathryn Istas

**Age:** 23 **Email:** [kistas@unmc.edu](mailto:kistas@unmc.edu)

### Project Details

**Organization Type:** (Select all that apply)

☐ Faith-based

☒ Non-profit

☐ Government

☐ Education

☐ Club

☐ Business

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which pool of funding are you applying for:**

☐ Disability Inclusion Youth Service

☒ Youth Service

**Community Served:** North Omaha, Nebraska

**Description of Youth Population** (ages, demographics): 34 elementary students from Lothrop Magnet Center ages 8-9, 5 college volunteers ages 23-25 and 1 Americorps member age 25.

**Expected Number of Volunteers:** 46 volunteers

**Number of Youth (age 5-25) anticipated out of expected volunteers:** 41 volunteers

### 3. Please describe your Youth Service Day Project plan and how it is applicable to the "YOUth Can!" theme:

The Youth Service Day Project, *Project G.P.S* (Gardening with Purpose and Service) sponsored by Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA). The project will combine knowledge about lead safety and horticulture into an educational and innovative project for youth. The focus of this project is to teach children about potential lead hazards in soil and how to landscape the area using lead safe practices. Landscaping is an effective method of remediating lead, because it helps to eliminate lead dust. Lead dust is very harmful to children, particularly because of their hand to mouth activity and rapid physical development. Lead poisoning can cause aggressive behavior, damage to the nervous system and organs, and learning disabilities in



children. It is essential to teach children how to make their home and community lead safe through effective and dynamic hands on activities.

OHKA and the third grade science class of Lothrop Magnet Center (LMC) are partnering together to get youth engaged in environmental education by teaching them how to safely garden and landscape. They can become stewards in their community by applying this knowledge directly and sharing with their own families. The site for the project is a residence of one of the LMC participants and is situated in a socio-economically underserved area. The yard has already been tested by the EPA for soil contamination, and has been found to be safe from lead.

The theme of “YOUth Can” empowers children with the motivation they need to protect themselves and their families from potentially hazardous lead problems. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable and this project will give the youth involved the knowledge they need to assist them to live in a healthy and aesthetic environment.

**4. Project Location (Complete Address):**

North Omaha

2444 Evans St. Omaha Nebraska 68111

**5. Does your project include a Service-Learning approach:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, please describe:**

Students are actively receiving lead poisoning education and applying the knowledge to real life. This will be completed by planning, designing, and implementing a horticultural project in the community in which they reside.

**6. If your project includes youth with disabilities or focuses on serving those with disabilities, describe how:**

NA

**7. Does your project plan to engage youth not normally asked to serve:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, please explain:**

The students from Lothrop Magnet Center are primarily from high poverty areas where volunteer opportunities are not available. Many of these youth are overlooked and not recognized for their potential to serve.

**8. How will your project meet the needs of your community:**

The GPS project will meet the needs of the community by providing an opportunity for underserved youth to work collaboratively and responsibly to make their community beautiful. Students from Lothrop Magnet Center and University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) will be given an outlet to learn about childhood lead poisoning and how to apply these skills to the practice of horticulture. The students at Lothrop Magnet Center are primarily from low income families who are not typically given the opportunity to give back to their community. Also, environmental hazards are taught in theory in the classroom, but this project will allow the youth to put these skills into practice. The GPS project will meet the needs of supporting youth volunteerism, environmental education, teamwork and stewardship among the participants.

**9. Day(s) completing service:** ☐ April 23 ☐ April 24 ☐ April 25 ☒ Other: April 22

The rain date is scheduled for April 23, 2010.

**10. How will you recruit volunteers for this project:**



Recruitment will primarily be through Lothrop Magnet Center science department and the UNMC campus. Other recruitment efforts will be through contacting previous OHKA volunteer participants.

**11. How will you involve youth in leadership roles:**

Youth will be involved in leadership roles through assuming various integral positions such as team captains and planning the garden outlay. They will be armed with knowledge of gardening, and lead prevention techniques in order to provide optimal outcomes for the garden. Spokesperson and other pertinent roles will be assigned.

**12. How many youth are involved in the planning of this service project:**

There will be three youth involved in the primary planning of the service project. One AmeriCorps member, one third grader and one college student, the ages will range from 8-25. Assistance will be provided by OHKA AmeriCorps members and Lothrop Magnet Center science teacher.

**13. Is this project a collaboration with another service day:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, which one(s) and with whom:**

**14. What supplies or resources will be necessary to complete this project:**

Gardening tools, gloves, seeds, potting soil, foliage will be the necessary supplies needed for the completion of the project. Lothrop Magnet Center will work together with OHKA to acquire some of these supplies. The site for the project is .04 miles; our participants will walk the short distance to and from the location. A vehicle will be on site to transport youth in cases of emergency or disability.

**15. How will you track numbers of volunteers and volunteer service hours:**

Tracking for the children will be completed through class roster and permission forms from Lothrop Magnet Center. There will be youth sign-in sheets for all other volunteers and participants.

**16. What will the end result of your project be:**

The end result of the project will be a successful collaboration between two groups of youth who otherwise would not have been provided the opportunity to work together in this type of community service capacity. Students will learn about childhood lead poisoning and its effects as well as the skill of horticulture. They will become more engaged in volunteerism and aware of the importance of aesthetics in their community.

**17. How will you know your project was a success:**

The GPS project will be measured by the number of participants, level of motivation among the team members, sense of pride and community between the homeowner and participants, and the overall knowledge obtained through being a part of this service learning project. Surveys, coloring contests, informal interviews will all serve as tools to measure project success. After the project is completed, positive reinforcement will take form of a pizza party for the children. This will teach the youth the positive gains of volunteering, and also give OHKA an additional outlet to strengthen the student's knowledge about lead.



## Budget Summary (Be as detailed as possible)

### *Materials/ Supplies:*

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Vegetable Plants	50	50.00	Donation from LMC	00
T-shirts	50	250.00	In-kind donation from OHKA	00
Foliage	20			50.00
Disposable Gloves	100			40.00
Equipment for Volunteers-gardening tools	10		Partial donation from LMC	80.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>230</b>			<b>170.00</b>

### *Travel (mileage, food costs):*

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Lunch for Children	34	30.00	Donation from LMC	00
Lunch for Volunteers	12			100.00
Water	60			50.00
Pizza Party	6			100.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>112</b>			<b>250.00</b>

### *Other:*

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Signage	3			20.00
Lead Detective Badges	34			60.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>37</b>			<b>80.00</b>

<b>Total:</b>				<b>500.00</b>
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## 2. Budget Narrative: Please describe why the requested funds are necessary for the success of this project.

The requested funds are essential for the success of this project because not only will it make the project possible, it will also enhance the learning experiences of the youth involved. Some of the items needed are being provided by LMC and OHKA. The items that are being requested are needed to teach the children how to landscape not only with vegetables, but also with foliage. Also, by having older youth volunteers involved it will strengthen community ties and help expand the knowledge to other parts of the community.